

Activity: Recreation Programs

Activity Summary

	2002 Enacted	2003 Estimate	FY 2004			Change From 2003 (+/-)
			Uncontr/ Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recreation Programs	548	552	+4	+299	855	+303
Total Requirements	548	552	+4	+299	855	+303

Authorization

16 U.S.C. 4601 - 4601-3	The Outdoor Recreation Organic Act
16 U.S.C. 4601-6a (h)	The Land and Water Conservation Act, as amended
40 U.S.C. 484 (o)	The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act, as amended
Public Law 106-355	National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000

Activity Overview

Recreation Programs cover a range of planning, Federal coordination, and technical assistance activities. The principal activity is the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas, and nationwide recreation information, statistics, and coordination.

DOI Outcome Goals Applicable to this Activity

Recreation

3.1 Improve Access to Appropriate Recreation Opportunities on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters

Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, and by providing technical assistance, planning and coordination, the programs in this activity support this goal by working to promote and expand recreational opportunities, and improving capacities to provide access for recreation. For example, the Federal Lands to Parks program facilitated the transfer of 63.5 acres of former Navy land to the City of Key West, FL, for public park and recreation use.

3.2 Ensure a Quality Experience and Enjoyment of Natural and Cultural Resources on DOI Managed or Partnered Lands and Waters

Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations and by providing technical assistance, planning and coordination, the programs in this activity support this goal by working to enhance the quality of recreation opportunities, ensuring responsible use in recreation and improving assessments and information for decision making for the converted use of surplus Federal land and facilities.

3.3 Provide for and Receive Fair Value in Recreation

Through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, and by providing technical assistance, planning and coordination, the programs in this activity support this goal by working to promote quality commercial services for recreation.

FY 2004 Base Program Overview

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. In partnership with State and local agencies, the FLP results in new and expanded State and community parks, increased close-to-home recreation, and protected open space and important natural and cultural resources. A great variety of land may be available from any agency of the

Federal government, including military bases, U.S. Coast Guard stations, and Army Corps of Engineers water control projects. The land may be located in rural or urban areas; may consist of open space, forests, wetlands, lakes, or shorelines; and may contain existing historic and recreation facilities. In addition, communities may convert and restore non-recreational property to meet community open space or recreational needs.

The NPS recommendations and land transfers are based on an assessment of the community's need for the property, capability of the applicant, suitability of the property for the intended use, and a plan for the proposed park use and/or development. Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the Service plays an important role in helping States and communities compete among other potential interests by communicating their needs and demonstrating the importance of ensuring long-term protection of and public access to resources.

The Federal Lands to Parks Program is the only Federal program for State or local agencies to acquire surplus Federal land for dedicated public recreation instead of paying fair market value. Once transferred, the land is protected for public park and recreation use in perpetuity for current and future generations. As a result, the program creates new State and local parks, provides public recreation services, conserves natural and historic resources, and contributes to community revitalization. In addition to benefiting communities, the FLP helps the Federal Government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities as well as management costs for those properties.



Ceremony to transfer a portion of the former Myrtle Beach Air Force Base (NPS Photo)

The National Park Service works with numerous partners and agencies to help convert surplus Federal land to public parks and recreation areas. Through the assistance of State and local governments, the NPS seeks communities that are interested in using the surplus land for park and recreation use and then aids communities in filing their application. The NPS acts as broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Services Administration, or military departments). The NPS approves the community's application, recommends the property transfer, prepares the deed, and conveys any restrictions associated with the deed.

After transferring the deed, the Park Service helps ensure continued public access to the properties for recreational use and protection of the properties' natural and cultural resources through site visits, follow-up contacts, technical assistance to communities, and deed and/or use agreement revisions as needed or requested. Federal Lands to Parks' acres are counted as preserved when property deeds are signed.

The FLP is addressing a marked increase of property available as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC). In addition to a backlog in BRAC properties, the program expects to review and recommend property transfers for a significant number of lighthouses.

Workload and performance tables are found after the justification of program changes at the end of this activity.

① Find the Federal Lands to Parks Program online at: <http://www.nps.gov/flp>

FY 2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

- Deeded 3,020 acres (22 surplus Federal properties) in 14 states
- Types of required assistance provided: licenses, land exchanges, leases, utility easements, telecommunication towers, changes in use, etc.
- Types of recreation capacity added: nature centers, trails, historic lighthouses, equestrian centers, sports fields, performing arts centers, community parks, picnic areas, and open space
- Continued effort to reduce backlog of 50 state and local requests (10,000 acres) for assistance and potential new parks as a result of the Base Realignment and Closure Act (BRAC)

FY 2003 Program Performance *(Based on the FY 2003 President's Budget)*

- Deed approximately 20 properties (2,000 acres) from former BRAC and non-BRAC surplus Federal real property
- Assist on 30 potential new properties, including historic lighthouses
- Monitor approximately 40 post-transfer stewardship requests
- Conduct two major environmental compliance cases
- Complete redesign of Federal Lands to Parks program real property data base for more efficient program operation and improved reporting timeliness and accuracy
- Continue effort to reduce backlog of 50 state and local requests (8,000 acres) for assistance and potential new parks as a result of BRAC

Justification of FY 2004 Budget Request for Recreation Programs

Request Component	Amount
FY 2003 Budget Estimate	552
Programmatic Changes	
• Federal Lands to Parks	+300
• Information Technology Reduction	-1
TOTAL, Program Changes	+299
Uncontrollable changes	+4
FY 2004 Budget Request	855
Net change	+303

Federal Lands to Parks. +\$0.300 Million

The Federal Lands to Parks (FLP) Program conveys surplus land to communities, usually at no cost, and assures stewardship of the land for public park and recreation purposes. Due to increased Federal land availability, a backlog of military base closure requests, lighthouses recently made available for transfer, and increased complexity of Federal land disposal and work related to NEPA and CERCLA requirements, the program has experienced increased responsibilities and a workload exceeding current capability. An increase of \$300,000 is requested to fund additional FTE to complete the project backlog from former rounds of military base closures, to review and assist in new acquisitions of available property, to provide additional inter-regional coordination and to accommodate more in-depth technical assistance requests. This increase represents a significant boost to program capability.



In Florida, Cape St. George lighthouse transferred to the Cape St. George Reserve (NPS Photo)

Information Technology Reduction: -\$0.001 million

The Department of the Interior is undertaking significant technology reforms to improve the management of IT investments and to realize short- and long-term efficiencies and savings. The reforms include consolidated purchases of hardware and software; consolidation of support functions including help desks, email support and web services; and coordination of training. The Environmental Compliance and Review activity includes a reduction of \$0.001 million to reflect the effect of these management reforms.

Workload Tables: Recreation Programs**Federal Lands to Parks Workload Factors**

Workload Factors	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Estimate	FY 2004 Estimate
Percent of communities served satisfied with Federal Lands to Parks assistance	91.3%	N/A ¹	92%
Transfers to State and local parks and recreation ²			
• Acres	3,020	2,000	3,500
• Properties/Parcels	22	20	35
Number of sites inspected to ensure public access, operation, and protected resources.	27	27	125
Number of historic lighthouse transfers reviewed and recommended	8	20	60
Ongoing recreation sites protected through Federal Lands to Parks assistance			
• Entire Sites ³	956	976	1,006
• Properties/Parcels	1,060	1,080	1,115

¹ Customer surveys are scheduled at 2-year intervals.

² Subject to disposal schedule, approval and environmental clearance of other Federal land disposing agencies.

³ Includes the number of local park units/sites rather than the number of properties/parcels transferred. One park may include multiple transfers; one transfer may contribute to more than one park.